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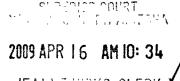
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF YAVAPAI

STATE OF ARIZONA,

CR 2008-1339

Plaintiff,

Division 6

STEVEN C. DeMOCKER,

STATE'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR NEW FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Defendant.

The State of Arizona, by and through Sheila Sullivan Polk, Yavapai County Attorney, and her deputy undersigned respectfully submits its Response to Defendant's Motion for New Finding of Probable Cause and requests Defendant's Motion be denied for the reasons given in the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

LEGAL ARGUMENT:

Recognizing that the function of the Grand Jury is the determination of probable cause, not guilt or innocence, and acknowledging that evidentiary challenges are best resolved in the adversarial arena of a trial, procedural rules and law have been developed which sharply limit the Defendant's ability to challenge the nature of the evidence presented to the Grand Jury. See, United States v. Calandra, 414 U.S. 338, 349 (1974).

A challenge may not be made based on the nature, weight or sufficiency of the

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evidence considered by the Grand Jury; such a challenge is beyond the scope of judicial inquiry. Crimmins v. Superior Court, In and For Maricopa County, 137 Ariz. 39, 42-43, 668 P.2d 882, 885-86 (1983); State v. Guerrero, 119 Ariz. 273, 276, 580 P.2d 734, 737 (App. Div. 2 1978).

In the case at bar, Defendant repeatedly references the Grand Jury transcript out of context to support his argument. The State requests that the court read the transcript in its entirety; doing so will demonstrate that Defendant's arguments are without merit.

I. THE STATE FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY PRESENTED THE CASE TO THE GRAND JURY AND FOLLOWED THE COURT'S INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING ANY MISSTATEMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS GRAND **JURY**

Defendant's motion fails to substantiate any alleged procedural right denied by the Grand Jury proceedings. Defense counsels belief that insufficient evidence exists for the Grand Jury's finding of probable cause is not supported by the Grand Jury transcript. An examination of the Grand Jury transcript clearly shows that the State made a fair and impartial presentation of the evidence. In making a determination of probable cause, there is no "mechanical test" to decide if due process has been satisfied. What is necessary for a fair and impartial presentation will vary from case to case. Due process is violated when perjured or false testimony is material to the indictment, thus precluding a Grand Jury from being able to find the existence of probable cause. Trebus v. Davis, supra; Nelson v. Roylston, 137 Ariz. 272, 669 P.2d 1349 (1983); State v. Jacobson, 22 Ariz. App. 128, 524 P.2d 962 (App. 1974); United States v. Basurto, 497 F.2d 781 (9th Cir. 1974). When courts have remanded cases to the Grand Jury, they have done so upon findings that the prosecution knowingly used false or misleading testimony, and that the testimony was material to the Grand Jury's finding of

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probable cause. In this case, the testimony of the witnesses was neither misleading nor false. Much of Defendant's motion criticizes the State's presentation of the results of the DNA tests and implies Detective Brown's use of the term "inconclusive" was somehow designed to conceal what Defendant claims was "clearly exculpatory evidence." In the order remanding the case to the Grand Jury, this Court instructed that the better practice would be for the witness to employ the same language of the prospective expert witness. The State even went so far as to define inconclusive by the crime lab. (GJ 53; 21-24) To ask the State to say that the Defendant is not a suspect based on the DNA would be a gross mischaracterization of the facts. The State went to great lengths to accurately present the facts of the labs findings. The State established the testing process of the DNA (GJ 54; 8-25, 55; 1-9). The State established that the results were inconclusive on the phone (GJ 56;24, 57; 10-11, 19-22), the light bulbs (GJ 61; 13-17) and the door handle (GJ 63; 2-7). The Defendant was specifically excluded as a contributor to the DNA found on the door handle (GJ 63; 11-14). The State established that none of the male DNA submitted to the lab matched the DNA found under the victim's fingernails (GJ 63; 11-21).

As noted previously in the order remanding the case to the Grand Jury, this court instructed that the better practice would be for the witness to employ the same language as the prospective expert witness. In presenting the evidence relating to the DNA analyses, it is clear that the State followed the Court's advice. The transcript clearly shows Detective Brown literally read from the DPS Scientific examination reports (GJ 52:21-22) while testifying as to the results of the DNA tests. A comparison of his testimony to the reports is attached as Exhibits A – E (GJ; 55:13-24 phone, exhibit A; 57:9-22 exhibit B, C; 56:8-15 exhibit A; 58:15-20 exhibit C). Accordingly his testimony was an accurate representation of

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these results in the exact language used in the reports. When Detective Brown used the term "inconclusive," he was, in fact, quoting from the lab reports. The samples were insufficient and therefore inconclusive. This is a fact and not speculation or interpretation. It is not misleading as the Defendant would lead us to believe.

If the Grand Jury was confused as Defendant claims, they could have requested additional information or another witness to clarify any questions about the evidence presented. The Defendant's assertion that the testimony was confusing or too convoluted for the Grand Jury to follow is absurd. The Grand Jury can ask questions of a witness to expand on an answer, to clarify an answer or to request additional evidence. A.R.S. § 21-412 states:

> The grand jurors are under no duty to hear evidence at the request of the person under investigation, but may do so. The person under investigation shall have the right to advice of counsel during the giving of any testimony by him before the Grand Jury, provided that such counsel may not communicate with anyone other than his client. If such counsel communicates with anyone other than his client he may be summarily expelled by the court from the Grand Jury chambers. The grand jurors shall weigh all the evidence received by them and when they have reasonable ground to believe that other evidence, which is available, will explain away the contemplated charge, they may require the evidence to be produced.

The Grand Jury transcript shows that the Grand Jury had no problems following the testimony of the detective presenting the DNA evidence. In fact the Grand Jury only had two questions about the DNA. One question was about the chain of custody between the law enforcement agency and the labs that analyzed the DNA evidence. (GJ 77;19-25). The second question was asked about any blood (DNA) located on Defendant's clothing (GJ 76:15-16.) The Defendant's claim that the jurors were misled or confused by testimony is unfounded.

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Defendant's other claims are also contradicted by testimony. Mr. Echols testimony that he did not know the purchase date of the life insurance policies is true and accurate. The State did not correct the testimony because the fact is that Mr. Echols, the witness, did not personally know the date of purchase. Although the State may have known the date it would have been misleading and false to have Mr. Echols testify to something he had no personal knowledge of. The State is not a witness and does not give testimony. Remand is neither required nor warranted.

II. THE STATE IS NOT OBLIGATED TO PRESENT ALL ARGUABLY EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE TO THE GRAND JURY.

In his motion the Defendant references his Trebus letter that was sent to the State. This letter contained a list of items that Defendant claimed was exculpatory evidence and a request that the evidence be presented to the Grand Jury. The letter is an attempt by the Defendant to present evidence to the Grand Jury to cast doubt on the Defendant's guilt or innocence. The State need not advise the Grand Jury on every conceivable defense. It is only when the defense rises to "clearly exculpatory" that the Grand Jury must be properly advised. State v. Coconino County Superior Court, 139 Ariz. 422, 678 P.2d 1386 (1984). The Arizona Supreme Court defined "clearly exculpatory evidence" as "evidence of such weight that it would deter the Grand Jury from finding the existence of probable cause." Id. The rationale for such a rule is to avoid turning the Grand Jury process into "mini-trials." State v. Fendler, 127 Ariz. 467, 480 662 P.2d 23 (App. 1980). The Defendant's requested evidence does not rise to the level of exculpatory evidence.

Defendant is mistaken that the State withheld exculpatory evidence from the Grand

Jury by not presenting the information requested by defense counsel in his *Trebus* letter.

"Because grand juries use a lower standard of proof (probable cause) than do petit juries (beyond a reasonable doubt), the procedural requirements for grand juries should be no greater. We also believe that Defendants in Grand Jury proceedings due to the very nature of the Grand Jury, are not entitled to all protections that are afforded Defendant's in jury trials."

O'Meara v. State, 174 Ariz. 576, 578, 851 P.2d 1375 (1993).

The Defendant points to evidence he considers to be exculpatory. An unidentified single fingerprint found on a stack of papers in a room where the murder was not committed does not rise to the level of exculpatory evidence. Common sense would tell any ordinary citizen that any home will have fingerprints.

In *United States v. Calandra*, 414 U.S. 338, 349, 94 S.Ct. 613, 620, 38 L.Ed.2d 561 (1974), the Court stated:

Because the Grand Jury does not finally adjudicate guilt or innocence, it has traditionally been allowed to pursue its investigative and accusatorial functions unimpeded by the evidentiary and procedural restrictions applicable to a criminal trial.

State v. Baumann, 125 Ariz. 404, 409, 610 P.2d 38 (1980):

The contention that a Grand Jury must consider all exculpatory evidence misreads the Grand Jury's primary function of whether probable cause exists to believe that a crime has been committed and that the individual being investigated was the one who committed it. A.R.S. s 21-413; 17 A.R.S. Rules of Criminal Procedure, rule 12.1(d)(4). Any more would put grand juries in the business of holding minitrials. Marston's, Inc. v. Strand, 114 Ariz. 260, 560 P.2d 778 (1977); State v. Horner, 112 Ariz. 432, 543 P.2d 118 (1975); State v. Bell, 589 P.2d 517 (Hawaii 1978).

In Defendant's *Trebus* letter there are misrepresentations of the evidence. A review of the items Defendant claims are "clearly exculpatory evidence" reveals Defendant has

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inaccurately portrayed the testimony or he is attempting to have the State essentially conduct a cross-examination of the witnesses that is clearly more appropriate in a trial setting. For example, Defendant claims the State ignored its request to caution officers about speculating that Defendant was wearing gloves and overalls or that he burned those items to get rid of them." Defendant claims the prosecutor asked Detective Brown if the lab could "detect if somebody wore a glove." However, a review of the transcript shows it was actually a grand juror who asked the question relating to the gloves. (GJ 75:25 -76:1-3).

The Defendant requested the State tell the Grand Jury that it did not get dark until about 9:00 p.m. The only known fact for the night in question is that the sun set at 7:46 p.m. For the Defendant to ask the State to present this type of evidence would be misleading to the jury,

Similarly, Defendant claims the State failed to advise the Grand Jury that the trail Defendant claimed to have been biking on was located "at least one and a half miles from the victims home" and instead presented testimony that mislead the Grand Jury into inferring Defendant was very near the scene. However, a review of Detective Brown's testimony reveals he specifically testified that the trail was located "approximately between one and half miles depending on how you're driving." (GJ 38:19-20).

Defendant further claims the Grand Jury should have been told that none of the materials found on Defendant's computer involving staging murders describe a scenario similar to the way the victim was killed. A review of the testimony shows the materials were accurately depicted as information about staging murders as suicides and the specific content of the materials was also accurately described. The Grand Jury was informed that the victim in this case died of multiple blows to her head. It is ludicrous to suggest the Grand Jury

Office of the Yavapai County Attorney 255 E. Gurley Street, Suite 300 Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: (928) 771-3344 Facsimile: (928) 771-3110

might infer anyone was trying to stage her murder as a suicide.

Defendant's request also stated that if the State presented evidence about the replacement of Defendant's driver's license and passport and other evidence of consciousness of guilt, it must also inform the Grand Jury that the items had been seized by police and needed to be replaced; that Defendant was not under arrest nor told to restrict his travel during this time and that while he was replacing items, including his shoes and underwear, he was fearful of wrongful arrest. In fact, the Grand Jury transcript clearly shows that Detective McDormett testified he did not believe Defendant had ever been told he should not leave the country and the Prosecutor told the Grand Jury that "items have been seized from Mr. DeMocker, and he was in some cases attempting to replace items that had been seized by the police?" (GJ 11:9-12).

It is clear from the above examples that Defendant's complaint is not always about the failure of the State to present what Defendant believes is "clearly exculpatory evidence;" it is more often that the State did not present the evidence in the ways requested by Defendant. Once again, a review of the transcript clearly shows the Grand Jury was presented with an accurate summary of the evidence in this case. The State would ask the Court to review the transcript. Remand is neither required nor warranted.

III. THE GRAND JURY RETURNED A VALID INDICTMENT AND THE DEFENDANT HAS FAILED TO PROVE OTHERWISE

The Defendant seeks to dismiss the indictment based on one or two pieces of evidence, primarily the DNA evidence. It is the totality of all the evidence presented to the Grand Jury that results in a determination of probable cause. A.R.S. §21-413 states:

The Grand Jury shall return an indictment charging the person under investigation with the commission of a public offense if, **from all the evidence taken together**, it

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Facsimile:

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Phone: (928)

is convinced that there is probable cause to believe the person under investigation is guilty of such public offense. (emphasis added).

The Defendant is trying to hold the Grand Jury to the same burden of proof that would be used in a criminal trial. The standard for a Grand Jury indictment, probable cause, has been met by the State. Remand is neither required nor warranted.

CONCLUSION:

The evidence was presented in a fair and impartial manner to the Grand Jury and, based on all the facts, the Grand Jury determined there was probable cause to believe Defendant killed Carol Kennedy. The Grand Jury returned a va

lid Indictment based on all of the evidence presented.

The State followed the Court's Order and cleared up any potential misstatements. Defendant's claim that he was denied substantial procedural rights is clearly without merit; therefore, his renewed request for a New Finding of Probable Cause should be denied.

Respectfully submitted this 16^{th} day of April, 2009.

SHEILA SULLIVAN POLK YAVAPAI COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mark K. Ainley

Deputy County Attorney

Copy of the foregoing delivered/mailed this 16th day April, 2009 to:

Office of the Yavapai County Attorney 255 E. Gurley Street, Suite 300 Prescott, AZ 86301

Phone: (928) 771-3344 Facsimile: (928) 771-3110

| 1 | Honorable Thomas B. Lindberg Division 6 |
|----|--|
| 2 | Yavapai County Courthouse |
| 3 | John Sears |
| 4 | 107 North Cortez Street Prescott, Arizona 86301 |
| 5 | and |
| 6 | Larry Hammond Anne Chapman |
| 7 | 2929 North Central Avenue, 21 st Floor Phoenix, AZ 85012-2794 |
| 8 | Attorneys for Defendant |
| 9 | |
| 10 | By: Dunto |
| 11 | |
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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION REPORT

AGENCY

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

DR NO. 2008723747

Prescott, AZ 86301

Page 2 of 2

FILE NO.

08029129

OFFICER

BROWN, #C38

DATE

August 06, 2008

NAME(S)

KNAPP, JAMES RALPH

DEMAKER, STEVE

DEMOCKER, STEVEN C.

The DNA profile from item #507-A ("vtech" telephone) is a mixture of two individuals. The major component is consistent with the DNA profile from item #615-A (Virginia Kennedy). Results from the minor component are inconclusive. The DNA profile from item #1002 (James Knapp) is excluded as a contributor to the mixture. Further information may be obtained through Y-STR DNA analysis. To request this analysis please contact the Crime Laboratory at (928) 773-3641.

The DNA profile from item #603 (left fingernails, Kennedy) is a mixture of two individuals. The major component of the mixture matches the DNA profile from item #615-A (Virginia Kennedy) at all 14 loci. The minor component is from an unidentified male source. This profile has been added to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). CODIS searches will be routinely performed and any future matches will be reported.

The DNA profile from item #805 (door handle) is a mixture of two individuals. The major component of the mixture matches the DNA profile from item #615-A (Virginia Kennedy) at all 14 loci. Results from the minor component are inconclusive. The DNA profile from item #100-A (Steven Democker) is excluded as a contributor to the mixture. Further information may be obtained through Y-STR DNA analysis.

KORTNEY SNIDER, #5506

Criminalist

Northern Regional Crime Laboratory

Kortney Snider

1140 W. Kaibab Lane Flagstaff, AZ 86001

(928) 773-3687

CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE

RECEIVED

Laboratory Frozen Storage

DISPOSITION

Laboratory Frozen Storage

Accredited by the ASCLD Laboratory Accreditation Board



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

SCIENTIFIC EXAMINATION REPORT

AGENCY

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

DR NO. 2008723747

Prescott, AZ 86301

08029129

Page 2 of 2

FILE NO.

OFFICER

BROWN, #C38

DATE

-

September 11, 2008

NAME(S)

DEMOCKER, STEVEN C.

Inconclusive or no results were obtained from item #507-A (cordless telephone).

The male DNA profile from item #603 (fingernail clippings) is a mixture of at least two individuals. The major component of this profile is from an unidentified male source. It is inconclusive as to whether item #100-A (Steven Democker) can or cannot be excluded as a possible contributor to this profile.

A partial male DNA profile was obtained from item #805 (door handle). It is inconclusive as to whether item #100-A (Steven Democker) can or cannot be excluded as a possible contributor to this profile.

Rebecca J. Love Holt

REBECCA J. LOVE HOLT, #5398

Criminalist

Northern Regional Crime Laboratory

1140 W. Kaibab Lane

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

(928) 773-3687

DISPOSITION

RECEIVED

CUSTODY OF EVIDENCE

Laboratory Frozen Storage Laboratory Frozen Storage

Accredited by the ASCLD Laboratory Accreditation Board



Forensic Case Report December 9, 2008

Amended Report This report supersedes the report issued October 27, 2008

TO: Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Attn: Det. Sgt. Haunte 255 East Gurley Street

Prescott, AZ 86301

Sorenson Case #:

T151298 Part 2

Submitting Agency Case #: 08-029129

Offense: Homicide

EVIDENCE RECEIVED:

| SORENSON ITEM# | AGENCY ID | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 7 | 1416 | Extract |
| 8 | 1417 | Extract |

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND OPINIONS:

Item 7 (Extract): A mixture of DNA profiles that genetically types as female was obtained from this item. The major DNA profile obtained from this mixture is attributable to the donor of item 615-A (V. Kennedy; DNA profile supplied by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office). The frequency of occurrence of this profile among unrelated individuals in the U.S. population is estimated to be:

1 in 990 thousand Caucasians

1 in 2.34 million African Americans

1 in 4.01 million Hispanics

Analysis of the remaining DNA profiles in this mixture was inconclusive.

Item 8 (Extract): A mixture of DNA profiles that genetically types as female was obtained from this item. Analysis for the presence of the donor of item 615-A (V. Kennedy; DNA profile supplied by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office) was inconclusive. The donor of item 100 (S. Democker; DNA profile supplied by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office) and item 1002 (J. Knapp; DNA profile supplied by the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office) are excluded as a source of the DNA obtained from this item.



Forensic Case Report October 6, 2008

TO: Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Sorenson Case #:

T151298

Attn: Det. Sgt. Huante 255 East Gurley Street Submitting Agency Case #: 08-029129

255 East Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301

Offense: Homicide

EVIDENCE RECEIVED:

| SORENSON ITEM # | AGENCY ID | DESCRIPTION |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1 | 1400 | Swab with stain |
| 2 | 1401 | Swab with stain |
| 3 | 1402 | Swab with stain |
| 4 | 1403 | Extract |
| 5 | 1406 | Extract |
| 6 | 1415 | Extract |

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND OPINIONS:

Item 1 (Swab with stain): A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. No further analysis of this mixture was conducted.

Item 2 (Swab with stain): A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. No further analysis of this mixture was performed.

<u>Item 3 (Swab with stain)</u>: A mixture of DNA profiles that genetically types as female was obtained from this item. The major DNA profile obtained from this mixture is attributable to unknown female individual #1. Analysis of the minor profile from this mixture was inconclusive.

<u>Item 4 (Extract)</u>: DNA of insufficient quality/quantity for STR analysis was obtained from this item. No further testing was performed

<u>Item 5-1 (Extract)</u>: A mixture of DNA profiles was obtained from this item. No further analysis of this mixture was conducted.

Sorenson Case #: T151298 Submitting Agency Case #: 08-029129 Date: October 6, 2008

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND OPINIONS:

<u>Item 6 (Extract)</u>: A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. The major DNA profile obtained from this mixture is attributable to unknown male individual #1. Analysis of the minor profile in this mixture was inconclusive.

NOTES:

- 1. Per client request all cuttings and extracts, excluding item 4 extract, were consumed during the course of testing.
- A portion of the DNA extracted from the items listed above was amplified using the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and typed at the loci D21S11, D7S820, CSF1PO, D13S317, D16S539, D2S1338, D18S51, Amelogenin, and FGA using the MiniFiler[®] PCR Amplification and Typing Kit.

Respectfully submitted

Todd M. Rigley

Associate Laboratory Director



Forensic Case Report December 8, 2008

Amended Report This report supersedes the report issued on October 6, 2008

TO: Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Sorenson Case #:

T151298

Attn: Det. Sgt. Huante

Submitting Agency Case #: 08-029129

255 East Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301

Offense: Homicide

EVIDENCE RECEIVED:

| SORENSON ITEM# | AGENCY ID | DESCRIPTION |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1, | 1400 | Swab with stain |
| 2 | 1401 | Swab with stain |
| 3 | 1402 | Swab with stain |
| 4 | 1403 | Extract |
| 5 | 1406 | Extract |
| 6 | 1415 | Extract |

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND OPINIONS:

Item 1 (Swab with stain): A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. Further analysis of this mixture was inconclusive.

Item 2 (Swab with stain): A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. Further analysis of this mixture was inconclusive

Item 3 (Swab with stain): A mixture of DNA profiles that genetically types as female was obtained from this item. The major DNA profile obtained from this mixture is attributable to the donor of item 615-A (V. Kennedy, victim; supplied by Yavapai County Sheriff's office). The frequency of occurrence of this profile among unrelated individuals in the U.S. population is estimated to be:

> 1 in 56.3 billion 1 in 54.5 billion

Caucasians

1 in 308 billion

African Americans

Hispanics

Sorenson Case #:

T151298

Submitting Agency Case #: 08-029129

RESULTS, CONCLUSIONS AND OPINIONS CONTINUED:

Analysis of the minor profile from this mixture was inconclusive

Item 4 (Extract): DNA of insufficient quality/quantity for STR analysis was obtained from this item. No further testing was performed

Date: December 8, 2008

Item 5-1 (Extract): A mixture of DNA profiles was obtained from this item. No further analysis of this mixture was conducted.

Item 6 (Extract): A mixture of DNA profiles, at least one of which genetically types as male, was obtained from this item. The major DNA profile obtained from this mixture is attributable to unknown male individual #1. Analysis of the minor profile in this mixture was inconclusive.

NOTES:

- 1. Per client request all cuttings and extracts, excluding item 4 extract, were consumed during the course of testing.
- 2. A portion of the DNA extracted from the items listed above was amplified using the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and typed at the loci D21S11, D7S820, CSF1PO, D13S317, D16S539, D2S1338, D18S51, Amelogenin, and FGA using the MiniFiler® PCR Amplification and Typing Kit.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd M. Rigley

Associate Laboratory Director